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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/737,471	12/18/2000	Pascal Albert Emile Lefebvre	Q62150	9352

⁷⁵⁹⁰
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05/29/2007

EXAMINER

HAN, CLEMENCE S

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2616

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/737,471

Applicant(s)

LEFEBVRE ET AL.

Examiner

Clemence Han

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 May 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☐ Claim(s) 1-21, 23, 24, 26 and 27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 10-15 and 17-20 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9, 16, 21, 23, 24, 26 and 27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's request for reconsideration of the finality of the rejection of the last Office action is persuasive and, therefore, the finality of that action is withdrawn.
2. The indicated allowability of claim 1 and 2 as amended is withdrawn in view of the newly discovered reference(s) to Demakakos. Rejections based on the newly cited reference(s) follow.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.
4. Claim 1, 21, 23, 24 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.
5. Regarding claim 1, the phrase "not configured to perform" in line 10 renders the claim indefinite because it is a negative recitation rendering the scope of the claim(s) unascertainable.
6. Regarding claim 21, the phrase "not configured to perform" in line 15 renders the claim indefinite because it is a negative recitation rendering the scope of the claim(s) unascertainable.

7. Claim 26 recites the limitation "the frame relay network" in line 12. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

8. Claim 26 recites the limitation "the packet network" in line 13. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

9. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

10. Claim 1, 2, 4, 6-9, 16, 23, 24 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Chang et al. (US 5,367,523) in view of Demakakos (US 6,891,851).

Regarding to claim 1, Chang teaches a network status reporting method for reporting in a communications network a network status information to a data source 21 with an adaptive transmission rate in order to enable said data source to adapt said transmission rate based on said network status information (Column 8 Line 15-24), said communications network further comprising at least one intermediate network node 22, and a data sink 23, wherein only said data sink reports to said data source on said network status information of said communications network in a neighbourhood around the data sink (Column 8 Line 7-9), and wherein no intermediate network node reports to said data source on said network status information of said communications network (see Figure

2), and wherein said communications network is a heterogeneous network comprising at least two different networks (Column 6 Line 16-20). Chang, however, does not teach one of the at least two different networks is not configured to perform available bit rate control technique. Demakakos teaches one of the at least two different networks 50 is not configured to perform available bit rate control technique (see Figure 1). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to modify Chang to include a network not configured to perform available bit rate control technique in the communication network as taught by Demakakos in order to provide high speed packet switched communication (Column 8 Line 40-46).

Regarding to claim 2, Chang teaches a communications network comprising: at least one data source 21 with an adaptive transmission rate; at least one intermediate node 22; and at least one data sink 23, wherein said data source adapts said transmission rate on the basis of network status information (Column 8 Line 15-24), and wherein only said data sink is able to report said network status information of said communications network in a neighbourhood of the data sink to said data source (Column 8 Line 7-9) and no intermediate node is able to report network status information to said data source (see Figure 2), and wherein said communications network is a heterogeneous network comprising at least two different networks (Column 6 Line 16-20). Chang, however, does not teach said at least two different networks comprises a packet network and a frame relay network. Demakakos teaches said at least two different networks comprises a packet network 61 and a frame relay network 50 (see Figure 1). It would have been

obvious to one skilled in the art to modify Chang to include a packet network and a frame relay network in the communication network as taught by Demakakos in order to provide high speed packet switched communication (Column 8 Line 40-46).

Regarding to claim 4, Chang teaches said data sink 23 is a network termination in an access network of said communications network.

Regarding to claim 6, Chang teaches the data source 21 being used in the communications network according to claim 2.

Regarding to claim 7, Chang teaches the data sink 23 being used in the communications network according to claim 2.

Regarding to claim 8, Chang teaches said data source is configured to request said data sink to report to said data source on said network status information of said communications network (Column 8 Line 25-29).

Regarding to claim 9, Chang teaches said data sink is configured to regularly report to said data source on said network status information of said communications network (Column 8 Line 60-63).

Regarding to claim 16, Chang teaches the network status information is information about the status of a network segment around the data sink, the network status information comprises a report about at least one of: congestion, radio-frequency interference, and weather condition in the network segment around the data sink, and the report is communicated to the data source (Column 8 Line 7-9).

Regarding to claim 23, Chang teaches one of the at least two different networks form the neighborhood around the data sink and wherein the neighborhood around the data sink is different type of network from a network formed by the intermediate node (Column 6 Line 16-20).

Regarding to claim 24, Chang teaches the data sink is connected to a network termination element via a first communication network and wherein said network termination element is connected to the data source via the at least one intermediate network node of a second communication network, and wherein the first communication network is a different type of network from the second communication network (Column 6 Line 16-20).

Regarding to claim 27, Chang teaches the data sink is connected to a network termination element via a first communication network and wherein said network termination element is connected to the data source via the at least one intermediate network node of a second communication network, and wherein the first communication network is a different type of network from the second communication network (Column 6 Line 16-20).

11. Claim 3 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chang et al. in view of Demakakos and further in view of Giroux et al. (US 6,963,538).

Regarding to claim 3, Chang teaches a communications network comprising: at least one data source 21 with an adaptive transmission rate; at least one intermediate node 22; and at least one data sink 23, wherein said data source adapts said transmission rate

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on the basis of network status information (Column 8 Line 15-24), and wherein only said data sink is able to report said network status information of said communications network in a neighbourhood of the data sink to said data source (Column 8 Line 7-9) and no intermediate node is able to report network status information to said data source (see Figure 2), and wherein said communications network is a heterogeneous network comprising at least two different networks (Column 6 Line 16-20). Chang, however, does not teach said at least two different networks comprises a packet network and a frame relay network. Demakakos teaches said at least two different networks comprises a packet network 61 and a frame relay network 50 (see Figure 1). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to modify Chang to include a packet network and a frame relay network in the communication network as taught by Demakakos in order to provide high speed packet switched communication (Column 8 Line 40-46). Chang in view of Demakakos, however, does not teach said data sink is a line termination in an access network of said communications network. Giroux teaches said data sink 19 is a line termination in an access network of said communications network. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to modify Chang in view of Demakakos to use data sink as a line termination as taught by Giroux in order to monitor network status around the line termination (s2 in Figure 3A).

Regarding to claim 5, Giroux teaches said network status information is a capacity of a link 16 between a network termination 18 and a line termination 19 in said access network of said communications network (Column 5 Line 61-65).

Response to Arguments

12. Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 1-21, 23, 24, 26 and 27 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Allowable Subject Matter

13. Claim 10-15 and 17-20 are allowed.

14. Claim 21 and 26 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Clemence Han whose telephone number is (571) 272-3158. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9 - 5.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Huy Vu can be reached on (571) 272-3155. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

C.H.

Clemence Han
Examiner
Art Unit 2616


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